

Wycombe improve and gain 5-2 win

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS. 5 : CLAPTON 2

WYCOMBE Wanderers, after an unimpressive first half in their Isthmian League match against Clapton this afternoon, improved in the second half and finished with a 5-2 victory.

Wycombe: Brown; Worley, Moring; Truett, Fisher, Fryer; Atkins, Trott, Rockell, Bates, Free.

Clapton: Turner; Wilkinson, Gardiner; Walsh, Pope, Thompson; Payne, Seaborne, Vousden, Flynn, Lewis.

Referee: Mr. L. Rosewarne (Watford).

Bates started some promising moves for Wycombe early on and Atkins and Trott were prominent on the right wing. But the Clapton defence covered well on a slippery pitch.

Rockell got away on his own for Wycombe, but was brought down by a back. The pace was by no means fast and neither side impressed in the early exchanges.

BATES SCORES

A miskick by Fisher endangered the Wycombe goal, but Lewis sliced his shot and the ball went wide. The best move so far put Wycombe ahead after 15 minutes when Atkins passed to Trott and BATES headed in from the inside right's pass.

Clapton hit back strongly for a spell and a clever back heel shot by Flynn almost deceived the goalkeeper and the same player headed narrowly over from a left wing centre.

At the other end Free tested Turner with a powerful shot and a little later made a good pass inside to Atkins whose shot again went wide.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Clapton 0.

Clapton's goalkeeper, Turner, was kept busy early in the second half when Wycombe showed more life.

After right winger Payne had got the ball in for Clapton only to be ruled offside, Wycombe started a series of lively attacks, and ATKINS increased their lead in the 57th minute. Taking a pass from Bates, he beat Turner easily with a fine left-foot shot.

Clapton scored after half-an-hour of the second half. PAYNE got away on the right and sent in a shot which deceived Brown and went in off the far upright.

Eight minutes after, FRYER bundled his way through to score again for Wycombe. A few minutes later FLYNN scored again for Clapton only for BATES straight from the kick-off to hit back with an easy fourth for the Wanderers. Just before the end TROTT added a fifth.

RESULT:

**WYCOMBE WANDERERS 5
CLAPTON 2**

LATE WYCOMBE RALLY STIRS IT UP

Wycombe W. 5, Clapton 2

FIVE goals provided little joy for Wycombe Wanderers supporters in an uninspiring Isthmian game against Clapton at High Wycombe.

The only excitement came late in the game, when both sides, spurred by the taunts of an exasperated crowd, produced a surprise scoring spree of five goals in the last 15 minutes.

Despite their somewhat ungainly play Clapton, at present at the foot of the Isthmian League, gave Wycombe an unexpectedly rough passage. Right-winger Payne and inside-left Flynn were always menacing the home goal.

For Wycombe it was one of the poorest displays of the season. Without the injured Johnny Beck the defence often wavered under Clapton's boisterous, if sporadic, pressure, and goalkeeper Brown had to cover some glaring errors.

Fryer tried hard in the half-back line, but the attack lacked thrust.

A one-goal lead from Bates was no more than Wycombe deserved after a scrappy first half. Atkins added to the lead 12 minutes after the interval, but the goal only stirred a brisk Clapton revival.

Then the exchanges, laboriously slow earlier on, quickened when Payne scored for the visitors in the 75th minute.

As robust attacks upset both defences, goals followed in quick succession. Fryer bundled a third in for Wycombe. After Flynn had scored again for Clapton, Bates and Trott made the issue safe for Wycombe in the last few minutes.